occupiers of the high-rise buildings to provide fire safety measures.

Extinction of Megapodes

199. SHRI P. N. SUKUL; Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that megapodes found in the Nicobar Islands are on the brink of extinction; and

(b If so, what steps Government pio-pose to take to save the Indian megapodes from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) (a) A survey to establish the status of the megapode is currently under way in the Nicobar Islands.

(b) There is a proposal to establish a national park *to* protect the habitat and breeding grounds of the megapode. in the Great Nicobar Island.

Dialogue with TNV

200. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to begin a dialogue with the TNV;

(b) whether any initiative has since been taken in that direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Government's policy in regard to holding talks with any extremist group in the North East is that it should fulfil the two pre-conditions, namely, (i) It should accept the Constitution of India; and (ii) It should stop its violent activities.

Wealth Tax exemption on bonds

201. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 per cent tax free and 14 per cent public sector bonds as well as 9 per cent tax free and 13 per cent public sector bonds were totally free from Wealth Tax when issued;

(b) whether it is also a fact that by implication the bonds were to remain Wealth Tax free for the full period, i.e. till its maturity;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ac cording to the proposal in the Union Budget for 1988-89 Wealth Tax exemp tion on the above bonds is only upto a certain limit; and

(d) whether Government propose to remove this anomaly; if so, how ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Assets held by an individual or a Hindu Undivided Family, being debentures issued by a public sector company and notified by the Central Government under clause (xvie) of sub-seetion (1) of section 5 of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 are totally exempt from wealth-tax.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sub-clause (b) of clause 55 of the Finance Bill seeks to impose the overall ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs contained in subsection (IA) of section 5 for exemption from net wealth on debentures referred to in sub-clause (xvie) of sub-seetion (1) of section 5, together with certain other assets.

(d) As it was not the Government's intention to take away an existing benefit, it is proposed to move a clarificatory amendment to clause 55 of the Finance Bill to the effect that only debentures sold by public sector companies on or after 1-6-1988 would be brought within the overall limit of Rs. 5 lakhs contained in sub-seetion (TA) of section 5.